

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSM-03 HA-05 IO-13
CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
AID-05 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 SY-05 A-01
OPR-02 MCT-01 /122 W
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O R 051315Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8183
INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM
CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER
COMSIXTHFLT
CTF SIX ZERO
CTF SIX ONE
CTF SIX TWO
CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO
FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA
FOSIF ROTA SPAIN
DIA WASHDC
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 3087

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS PINT MILI ASEC LE
SUBJ: LEBANESE SITUATION: JUNE 5, 1978, 1300 HOURS LOCAL

REF: BEIRUT 3061 (DTG 021330Z JUN 78)

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: PRESIDENTS SARKIS AND ASSAD REPORTEDLY
AGREED TO DEPLOY SYRIAN ADF FORCES TO THE LITANI AFTER ISRAELI
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WITHDRAWAL, TO BE FOLLOWED BY LEBANESE ARMY DEPLOYMENT SOUTH
OF THE LITANI. CAMILLE CHAMOUN, HOWEVER, SAID THE GOL SHOULD
ASSURE COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE SOUTH BEFORE DEPLOYING THE
ARMY THERE. ARAFAT AGAIN PLEDGED TO REFRAIN FROM CROSS-
BORDER OPERATIONS AGAINST ISRAEL. LEBANESE FRONT LEADERS
MET TO RESOLVE CLASHES AMONG COMPETING CHRISTIAN FACTIONS.
FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTROS ANNOUNCED THAT AMBASSADOR YOUNG HAD

APOLOGIZED FOR RECENT STATEMENTS IN THE MAGAZINE MIDDLE EAST. FRANCE AGREED TO LEND LEBANON \$53 MILLION FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. LATE ITEM: PHALANGE AND NLP MILITIA CLASHED AGAIN. END SUMMARY.

2. REPORTED SYRIAN/LEBANESE AGREEMENT ON SOUTH LEBANON

ACCORDING TO BEIRUT PRESS ON JUNE 3, PRESIDENTS SARKIS AND ASSAD TENTATIVELY AGREED AT LATAKIA TO DEPLOY SYRIAN ADF FORCES FURTHER SOUTH TO CREATE A BUFFER ZONE BETWEEN PALESTINIAN GUERRILLAS AND UNIFIL AFTER ISRAEL'S TOTAL WITHDRAWAL. UNDER THIS PLAN, THE SYRIANS WOULD TAKE OVER CONTROL OF THE QASIMIYAH BRIDGE AND NABATIYAH BARRACKS. AT THE SAME TIME, THE GOL WOULD SEND AN ARMY BRIGADE SOUTH AND DEPLOY THEM ALONG THE SOUTH BANK OF THE LITANI, THE PRESS CLAIMED. PHALANGE POLITICAL BUREAU MEMBER KARIM PAKRADOUNI TOLD EMBOFF GOL WOULD DISPATCH FORCE OF 1500 IN A FIRST PHASE, PLUS 1500 MORE LATER. ASSAD LEFT IT UP TO GOL TO DECIDE WHAT TO DO ABOUT RIGHTIST FORCES IN SOUTH UNDER COMMAND OF MAJOR SA'AD HADDAD, PAKRADOUNI SAID.

3. RIGHTIST REACTION.

LEBANESE FRONT PRESIDENT CAMILLE CHAMOUN TOLD PRESS JUNE 4 THAT BEFORE ARMY GOES SOUTH, COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN BEIRUT AND THE SOUTH SHOULD BE ASSURED, ESPECIALLY WITH DAMOUR. CONFIDENTIAL

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(CHAMOUN HAD A HOUSE IN DAMOUR BEFORE THE WAR.)

4. ERSKINE MEETS ARAFAT.

UNIFIL COMMANDER EMANUEL ERSKINE MET WITH YASIR ARAFAT IN BEIRUT ON JUNE 2. AFTERWARDS ERSKINE TOLD REUTERS THAT ARAFAT HAD: (A) AGREED TO ALLOW UN OFFICERS TO BE BASED AT BEAUFORT CASTLE; (B) REAFFIRMED THAT HE WOULD STOP ARMED MEN FROM INFILTRATING BEHIND UN LINES; (C) REPEATED THAT THE PLO HAD THE RIGHT TO RETURN TO ITS BASES AFTER ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL, BUT THAT THE PALESTINIANS WOULD NOT USE THE BASES FOR CROSS-BORDER RAIDS.

5. LEBANESE FRONT ATTEMPTS RECONCILIATION.

CAMILLE CHAMOUN, PIERRE GEMAYEL, TONY FRANJIYAH AND OTHER LEADERS OF THE LEBANESE FRONT MET AT THE MARONITE PATRIARCH'S RESIDENCE IN BKERKE ON JUNE 3. ACCORDING TO L'ORIENT LE-JOUR, THEY DENOUNCED THE RECENT CLASHES AT BATROUN AND SHIKKA BETWEEN RIVAL CHRISTIAN FACTIONS AND PLEDGED TO PREVENT FURTHER FIGHTING. ACCORDING TO DATT, NINE PERSONS HAVE BEEN KILLED IN THE CLASHES, WHICH MAY NOT YET HAVE ENDED.

6. CLARIFICATION BY AMBASSADOR YOUNG.

FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTROS ANNOUNCED ON JUNE 2 THAT AMBASSADOR YOUNG HAD SENT AN APOLOGY TO THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT ABOUT THE "MISUNDERSTANDING" HIS RECENT STATEMENTS ABOUT LEBANESE AND SYRIAN ATTITUDES TOWARDS ISRAELI OCCUPATION OF SOUTH LEBANON MAY HAVE CAUSED. BOUTROS ALSO SAID THAT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY HAD REITERATED ITS STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ALL ARTICLES OF UNSC RESOLUTION 425.

7. FRENCH LOAN FOR LEBANON.

LEBANESE AND FRENCH REPRESENTATIVES SIGNED A "FINANCIAL PRO-CONFIDENTIAL

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COL" IN BEIRUT ON JUNE 3, UNDER WHICH THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT WILL GRANT THE GOL A LOAN OF 240 MILLION FRENCH FRANCS (\$53 MILLION) FOR USE IN RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS. THE FRENCH TREASURY WILL PROVIDE ONE-QUARTER OF THE LOAN AT AN INTEREST RATE OF 3 TO 4 PERCENT OVER 20 YEARS. THE FRENCH EXPORT AGENCY COFACE WILL PROVIDE THE REST OF THE LOAN AT A FIXED INTEREST RATE OF 7 PERCENT OVER A 10 YEAR PERIOD. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL FOR DEVELOPMENT AND RECONSTRUCTION, MUHAMMED ATALLAH, SAID PART OF THE LOAN WOULD GO FOR THE PURCHASE OF "ADVANCED ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT."

8. LATE ITEM.

PHALANGE AND NATIONAL LIBERAL MILITIA CLASHED IN HADATH ON JUNE 3-4, ACCORDING TO AN EMBASSY SOURCE. FOUR PEOPLE WERE REPORTED WOUNDED.

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